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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General's Personal Envoy Cyrus Vance to go on third mission to Yugoslavia, tomorrow.

- Secretary-General reports that United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia is now operational.

- First shipment of highly enriched uranium from Iraq removed under supervision of International Atomic Energy Agency and United Nations Special Commission.

- Special Political Committee is told that apartheid is "alive and well" despite some "positive" changes in South Africa.

- Iraq states in Social Committee that embargo against it flagrantly violates all human rights instruments.

- Special Rapporteur of Commission on Human Rights urges that comprehensive political solution to Afghan conflict be placed in framework of respect for human rights.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said this morning that he was in constant contact with all the parties to the Yugoslav conflict through his Personal Envoy, Mr. Cyrus Vance.

It was announced later today that Mr. Vance was leaving New York tomorrow to go on a third mission to Yugoslavia.

In a related development, the Secretary-General's Spokesman today dismissed press reports indicating that a boat of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on its way to Dubrovnik had been shelled. He said his office had been informed by UNICEF that the reports were false.

According to UNICEF, he said, the Yugoslav Navy had carried out customary routine firing across the bows of the vessel. The UNICEF ship had

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For information media—not an official record

communicated by radio with the Naval vessel, explained its mission and proceeded to Dubrovnik. It was later announced that the ship had safely reached Dubrovnik.

In a separate development, the Security Council met informally this afternoon to consider the situation in Yugoslavia.

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The Secretary-General has reported that the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) is now operational.

In a report to the Security Council yesterday, the Secretary-General said that the Chief Liaison Officer of UNAMIC, A.H.S. Ataul Karin of Bangladesh, accompanied by three military liaison officers, had assumed their duties in Phnom Penh, where a number of civilian support staff members had also arrived. In addition, Brigadier General Michel Loridon of France, who had been appointed Senior Military Liaison Officer, had assumed the command of the military elements of UNAMIC. The air operations unit, contributed by France, had also arrived in Phnom Penh, joining the military communications unit contributed by Australia.

The Secretary-General's report concluded that deployment of the remaining civilian and military personnel would now proceed rapidly and was expected to be completed on schedule by mid-December.

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The first shipment of highly enriched uranium from Iraq was flown out of that country today, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The operation is in compliance with Security Council resolution 687 (1991), setting the conditions for the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf conflict.

The Agency reported that a United Nations cargo flight loaded with material from the research reactor at Al Tuwaitha had left Baghdad this morning heading for Moscow, under the supervision of a IAEA team in cooperation with the United Nations Special Commission.

The operation, which was to be completed on Sunday, was arranged through a contact between the Ministry of Atomic Power and Industry of the Soviet Union and the IAEA. The highly enriched uranium would be processed at an appropriate facility in the USSR and then returned to IAEA after isotopic dilution.

The airlift of the remaining quantities of non-irradiated highly enriched uranium is scheduled to be completed this coming Sunday, 17 November, when a second flight is planned.

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Asserting that apartheid was "alive and well", speakers addressing the General Assembly's Special Political Committee yesterday made a plea for sanctions to remain in place until a non-racial and democratic system was established in South Africa.

However, one speaker pointed out that sanctions had led to violence and unemployment among the black majority and then should be lifted.

Among those addressing the Committee, Beatrice Von Roemer of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions said that although she welcomed the repeal of apartheid legislation, she felt that such steps amounted to no more than the "removal of an ugly facade, leaving the basic structure intact".

In his statement, David Ridenour of the National Center for Public Policy Research said South Africa had met the five conditions set by the United Nations in 1989 for the removal of punitive international sanctions. Citing public opinion polls, which showed that a vast majority of blacks oppose sanctions which had also caused a rise in unemployment and violence, he said the Organization should stand by its word and call on all Member countries to lift sanctions.

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In flagrant violation of all human rights instruments, the embargo against Iraq has deprived children of food and medical care, causing malnutrition, disease and effectively condemning them to die, the General Assembly's Social Committee was told yesterday by the representative of Iraq.

Mohammad A. Hussein of Iraq said the United Nations had adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but apparently the children of Iraq did not have the same rights as others.

Among others addressing the Committee, the representative of China, Kening Zhang, referred to a statement made on 12 November by the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Community, that China had failed to submit additional information to the monitoring body of the Convention against torture. That criticism, Mr. Zhang said, was unfair and biased. Torture was banned and was punishable by Chinese law. The crime of torture had not been completely eradicated in China, but that country was exerting maximum efforts to end the practice and fully complied with its treaty obligations.

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The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Felix Ermacora, recommends that the peace process and any political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan be firmly placed within the framework of respect for human rights.

In his interim report to the General Assembly of 5 November, he said the year 1991 was "a year when a new attempt to reach a political solution to the

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conflict could result in an improvement of the human rights situation". He recommended that both the Government of Afghanistan and the opposition forces be equally bound to international human rights instruments. The continuing conflict between the Afghan Government and the armed opposition had resulting in heavy civilian casualties and material losses. Another significant consequence of the conflict, according to the report, was the six million refugees who had fled to neighbouring countries, and many of them were not prepared to return to Afghanistan.

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